

# Point Three



The Toc H magazine  
December 1979 10p



All of us at Headquarters send our warmest Christmas wishes  
to all readers





# Point Three

Editor : Frank Rice MA MA MBIM  
Designer : Sybil A Chick LSIAD

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Point Three is available from the Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Single copies 10p. Annual subscription: £1.20 including postage.

The cover picture was taken at Marsh Farm Estate, Luton. This year's Toc H playscheme included children of Vietnamese boat people settled in Luton. The occasion of the picture was a barbecue for those involved.

Photo: Home Counties Newspapers Ltd



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's play schemes to arts festivals and even bird-watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House; the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four-fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points — to think fairly.

# From the Editor

*'The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance. . .'*  
(John Philpot Curran)

Two things have just set me thinking about the relationship between freedom and information. I have just heard that, after 11 months absence, *The Times* will soon be back. And I have been reading with great interest Sir Robert Mark's autobiography, (*'In the Office of Constable'*, now a Fontana paperback, price £1.50).

We have talked a lot recently in these pages about technological change: we mustn't forget the pace of social change. Powerful moves like the drive for 'equality' have shifted attitudes so that we no longer quite know where we stand. Relaxed standards have softened those customary behaviour patterns which form society's cement. The big Trades Unions have become self consciously rich and powerful and their near immunity from the law has become a major issue. Moreover, when government or judiciary moves to reverse any of these trends, we get orchestrated cries of 'backlash', implying moves towards the 'fascism' we have been indoctrinated to dread above all things.

I don't believe that we have yet gone too far or even too fast provided we exercise the right we still have to talk freely without fear of 'big mouth' and 'rentacrowd'. Sir Robert suggests that the police are disillusioned with our attitude towards them. But recent research suggests that they have little to fear. So far from regarding our police as jack-booted masters, most of us rely on them, seek their help when we are in trouble and regard them as public servants. The test samples show that 80% of the public still have a general respect for the police, even though they are fully aware of occasional corruption and even rarer brutality. Half those questioned had sought help from the police and only 4% of these expressed disappointment. Even among the young, the urban poor and racial minorities, some 50% generally approved of the police. The project showed only a very small minority who strongly condemned the police — though, of course, this minority makes a lot of noise.

These findings do not surprise me because tradition dies hard, and our tradition is not extremist. However reluctant the favoured few have been to accept the right of the majority to a better life, they *have* accepted it. I think it likely that our new masters will also moderate their language in time. Those of us who move among all sorts of people know that 'left' extremism is no more typical of our 'working class' than 'right' extremism is of our 'establishment'. Extremists just shout louder. Dean Inge once pointed out that the enemies of freedom don't reason: 'they shout and they shoot'.

If freedom is to survive, good men must act. And they will if they are fully informed. Sir Robert wisely opened Scotland Yard to the press and is unstinted in his praise of their responsibility. Many of our social problems would be eased if national and local government and the great corporations (including the Trades Unions — and Toc H!) would follow his example. A good start — as Sir Robert himself points out — would be to abolish section 2 of the Official Secrets Act which severely restricts what a public servant may disclose, even after he retires. This need not threaten national security or intrude on personal privacy. But it would start to open the locked windows so that we could assess any abuse of power or wasteful inefficiency in the public services and corporations. The non-public corporations — and the critics of the establishment! — should also be made to open their books.

So we come back to *The Times* which, like most of our press, has a good record in working to force more open administration. If freedom is to survive here, we need more and better communication among all the groups that make our society and that cause is helped when we have a wide choice of newspapers with different views. The media now reach into the homes of nearly all of us: the means for supplying full and accurate information are there. They are not yet government controlled or directed. Our communications industry is still big enough and varied enough to be competitive and that is a strength because the disclosure of information is good business, besides being in the public interest. As Sir Robert says, 'Dissent is the very essence of democracy'. A widely diverse press helps to ensure that dissent is truthful. It's not a bad test of a democracy to see how far minority views can be expressed — however hateful those views might be to the rest of us. But we need good investigative journalists and strong editors to help us constantly to check the truth of the facts and the validity of the evidence on which those views (as well as the views of the big boys!) are based. We just can't afford to let *The Times* or any other of our newspapers close.

FGR



# Stille Nacht

by Alan Robson

Alan and Irene Robson are the Toc H Host and Hostess of Alison House.



If I am ever asked to choose a Christmas Carol, I always choose 'Silent Night' because it reminds me of an event which took place many years ago. I do not remember telling this story fully to anyone ever before so I have no idea what your reaction will be . . . I become a little emotional when I think of it.

The story begins in the winter of 1945 in Berlin and I am attached to The Prisoners of War and Displaced Persons Division of the British Military Government. It is about 11 am on the fourth Sunday in Advent. I have just left the little warm non-denominational chapel in the large hotel like building where I am billeted and having declined an invitation to go to the Mess for a drink before lunch, I decide instead to go for a walk. It is snowing very hard outside, the wind is cold and strong so I dress appropriately with my greatcoat buttoned to the neck and the collar turned right up so that only my eyes show below my peaked cap which is pulled down hard to prevent it blowing off. My feet are clad in a pair of airman's flying boots and I am wearing thick brown leather gloves . . . The surrounding buildings are mostly in ruins and the only people in the streets are those carrying firewood from ruins and the nearby woods to their homes. The temperature is so low that my breath has formed icicles on my collar. As I turn a corner I see some little children trooping into the ruins of a church. As I watch them I can't help noticing how inadequately they are clothed: their footwear is primitive, some wearing wooden clogs whilst the less fortunate have only pieces of wood with strips of canvas nailed to them. Knowing how small the German civilian food ration is I have no doubt that they are undernourished, but they laugh and talk excitedly as children do at Christmas time about gifts and food as they pass me by.

My curiosity gets the better of me so I follow them into the crypt of this ruined church. A few anxious glances are cast my way, so I reassure them with a smile and greeting. At the foot of the stairs I am met by an elderly Pastor who invites me to share the Children's Sunday School Carol Service. Well, I am really cold, lunch isn't for another hour, if I went

back to the Mess now my pals would only say 'That didn't take long Georgie', so I accept his invitation and sit at the back. This isn't good enough! I am escorted right into the midst of the children and presented with a worn hymn book. We pray together in the gloom and then the Pastor asks me which carol I would like, so I say 'Stille Nacht bitte'. Everybody smiles because they all know this one. 'Please Mr Soldier, sing the first verse alone' says the little girl sitting next to me. I break off here to point out to those of you who have not yet had the misfortune of hearing my singing that you have missed absolutely nothing. All that I am able to do is to make a tuneless joyful noise unto the Lord. So I have no hesitation in declining the little girl's request but I say 'I will recite the first verse in Deutsche if you and the little boy sitting next to you will sing the second verse'. The children readily agree and we are ushered to the front by the benign old Pastor. As I turn to face the children I am horrified to see that one or two adults have joined us and are sitting at the back. It is rather gloomy but I catch sight of a young lady in khaki sitting there. Now I don't mind making a fool of myself with a lot of children but I draw the line at adults. However there is no going back so I start:

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht  
alles schlaft, einsam wacht,  
nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lокkigan Haar,  
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

And then, each with a cold little hand clasped in mine, no inhibitions, no holding back, voices perfectly in tune, the little boy and girl sing:

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Hirten erst kundgemacht  
Durch der Engel Halleluja,  
Tont es laut con fern und nah;  
Christ der Retter, ist da,  
Christ der Retter, ist da.

As I listen to those children's voices, their lives as pure as their song, and

conscious of the horrible waste, devastation and destruction of life that was just over, I think of another carol which has in it the lines:

'And man at war with man hears not  
The love song which they bring.  
Oh, hush the noise ye men of strife,  
and hear the angels sing.'

The service ends and I am cordially invited to come again some day. The snow has stopped when we come outside and I hurry along to get to the warmth of my room. I catch up with the English girl who had been in the gloomy crypt. She has black curly hair peeping out from under her khaki hat, a lovely smile and a rather posh accent. Mind you, having been brought up as a Northerner on a diet of 'Blaydon Races' and 'When the Boat Comes in' any southern accent sounds posh to me. I walk back with her to where she lives and on the way we discuss the service and the plight of the children, the old Pastor and the mess that the world is in. I ask her if I could see her the following night but she already has a date so we say goodbye and with thoughts of ships that pass in the night I walk back to my Sunday lunch and that is the end of that.

Those children I met so long ago will now be around 40 years of age. I have never heard or seen any of them since that time, but at Christmas time and especially when we sing 'Silent Night' my thoughts return to the gloomy crypt in that ruined church in Berlin and I often wonder if any of them remember the young Englishers who shared their carol service with them.

What about the young English girl with the curly black hair and shining eyes . . . Well, I know that she was married the following year and now has three children and a grandson.

At this moment she is sitting here beside me and wondering what her sentimental old husband is going to say next.





# Welcome

The following branches elected new members during September and October:

- 6 - Crayford (j) Group
- 4 - Clwyd District, Preston Youth Action (j) Group
- 3 - North Sussex District
- 2 - High Brooms (w), Kingswood (j), Norwich (w), Rushden Royal (w), Wem (j)
- 1 - Exmouth (m), Hoddesdon (m), Leicester Toc H United (j), Owton Manor (w), Southampton Magpies (j), South East Herts District, Whitstable (w)

A warm welcome to 34 new members



When General Secretary Gilbert Francis was in Alloa in August, he initiated three new branch members.

## Point Three

Though we're not quite in *The Times* class, we are fighting the same battle to improve communication. And we, too, have our cash flow problems. In recent months, the Finance Secretary has appealed to all branch subscribers to pay a year in advance. Your response has been splendid. At the time of writing, 528 of the total of 560 branches who place bulk orders have paid up to 31 March 1980. The sum outstanding from the other 32 branches is £260, compared with £1,600 at this time last year. If my arithmetic is right, that represents an improvement of nearly 84%. It's a great help so, please, what about it, you remaining 32 branches? And, please, all branches make your plans in good time for the next financial year. I hope to let you have firm news soon of any price rise that may be forced on us.

## HOW TO ACHIEVE FULL MARX

by Charles Potts

Being mindful of the prevalent  
Industrial discontent  
And the claims of exploitation that  
Our working men resent,  
Here are guide lines for a workers'  
Revolutionary campaign  
To overcome the wrongs, of which  
They constantly complain.

To attain a fair equality  
Any form of competition  
Must not only be discouraged but  
Regarded with suspicion.  
Each worker must be vigilant  
To check upon his brothers,  
That none take home a wage packet  
That is bigger than another's:

For, as everyone is equal, we  
Should all get equal pay,  
Though those with any extra skill  
Have still a right to say  
That for such superiority  
They consider it essential  
That they continue to maintain  
A wages differential.

If demanding differentials seems  
Contradictory to parity,  
We must not let this anomaly  
Affect our solidarity.  
Remember that such arguments  
Provide good cause for strikes,  
Letting any honest worker stage  
A walk-out when he likes.

But should it happen that a strike  
Stops payment by the bosses  
The Government must compensate  
For our financial losses.  
And if ever scabs or blacklegs, or  
Others of that breed,  
Should try to undermine our plans  
Our strikes must still succeed.

By using strong arm strategy  
And intimidating picket,  
Derisive of their argument  
That this is hardly cricket,  
Let them see aggressive action is  
Most vital to our cause  
And that not by playing silly games  
Are victories won in wars.

If at any time the management  
Should give a mate the sack,  
We must ensure immediately  
That they will take him back.  
Whatever his offence may be  
To that attach no weight,  
Support any excuse he gives  
Because he is your mate.

Then take industrial action, bring  
The bosses to their knees,  
Affirming your entitlement  
To do exactly as you please.  
One item of importance that  
All of us should always seek  
Is to have our working hours reduced  
To twenty in the week.

Only then can we be certain of  
A worthwhile take home pay  
With at least four hours of overtime  
On every working day;  
And overtime at double wage  
Must of income tax be free,  
And twenty hours a week of it  
Should be our guarantee.

Such tactics will eventually  
Create a bankrupt nation  
And bring to the establishment  
Complete disintegration.  
With capitalism vanquished, there  
Will not be long to wait  
Before we finally achieve  
A totalitarian state.

Yet, when our struggle's over and  
We've gained success at last,  
There might be just a warning note  
In the victory trumpet's blast:  
We might end up in labour camps  
If we have gone too far,  
With much more chance of being a slave  
Than being a commissar.



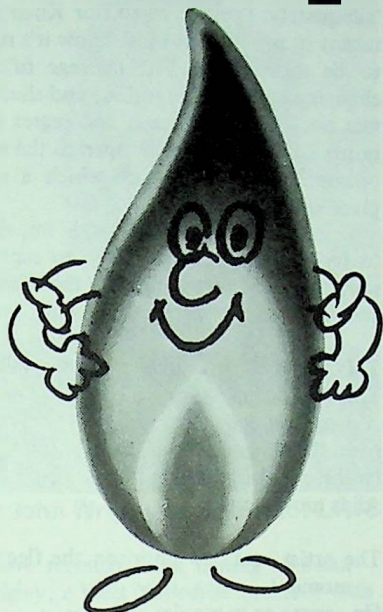
In October, Deal and Walmer (Kent) Joint Branch celebrated 50 years of

Toc H in Deal with a re-dedication service in Trinity Church.

Photo: Deal Mercury



# "Help your clients to the help they need"



There are probably quite a number of people who could benefit from some of the helpful services provided by British Gas—but who are unaware of them. People like the elderly and disabled.

You could help them to the help they need by spreading the word more among your clients.

We will gladly provide you with explanatory leaflets about special help for disabled people, gas safety, easy payments and other helpful services we can offer. Just ring—or write to your local Home Service Adviser. You'll find the address and telephone number below.

## SCOTTISH GAS

Chief Home Service Adviser,  
Scottish Gas, Granton House,  
4 Marine Drive,  
Edinburgh, EH5 1YB.  
Tel: 031-552 6271.

## NORTHERN GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
Northern Gas, Norgas House,  
P.O. Box 1GB, Killingworth,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE99 1GB.  
Tel: 0632 683000.

## NORTH WEST GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
North West Gas, Welman House,  
Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 8AE.  
Tel: 061-928 6311.

## NEGAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
Negas, 5-7 New York Road, Leeds,  
LS2 7PE. Tel: 0532 36291.

## EMGAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
Emgas, P.O. Box 145,  
De Montfort Street, Leicester,  
LE1 9DB. Tel: 0533 50022.

## WEST MIDLANDS GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
West Midlands Gas, 5 Wharf Lane,  
Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2JP.  
Tel: 021-705 6888.

## WALES GAS

Chief Home Service Adviser,  
Wales Gas, Snelling House,  
Bute Terrace, Cardiff, CF1 2UF.  
Tel: 0222 33131.

## EASTERN GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
Eastern Gas, Star House,  
Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 2PD.  
Tel: 77 51151.

## NORTH THAMES GAS

Chief Home Service Adviser,  
North Thames Gas,  
North Thames House, London Road,  
Staines, Middx., TW18 4AE.  
Tel: 81 61666.

## SEGAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
Segas, Katharine Street, Croydon,  
CR9 1JU. Tel: 01-688 4466.

## SOUTHERN GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
Southern Gas, P.O. Box 103,  
St. Mary's Road, Southampton,  
SO9 7GH. Tel: 0703 824124.

## SOUTH WEST GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,  
South West Gas, Riverside,  
Temple Street, Keynsham, Bristol,  
BS18 1EQ. Tel: 027-56 61717.

## BRITISH GAS HOME SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The Home Service Adviser,  
The Home Economist, British Gas,  
Marketing Division,  
326 High Holborn, London,  
WC1V 7PT. Tel: 01-242 0789.

**BRITISH GAS**





# From the Director

Ken Prideaux-Brune



At about 2.15 pm on Sunday, 7 October, I left Dor Knap at the end of my last weekend there, a moment which obviously stands out as I reflect on all that has happened during the last month.

Twenty years is a short time in the long life of that old farmhouse, but long enough for it to have made a contribution to our Movement which can never be measured. The lives of thousands of people have been affected by this place. Thousands have gained fresh vision and renewed inspiration. The view from the house is sometimes crystal clear, sometimes veiled in mist and cloud, but it is always there and few, if any, have gone away empty-handed.

Looking back over these 20 years, each of us will have his own precious

memories, some sacred and some very profane, but all of them of moments when the cloak of invisibility that normally hides the world of the spirit was, just for an instant, torn aside and we seemed to glimpse the reality which is at the heart of the universe. Just for a moment we could see and touch the 'unseen chain' which binds human beings to each other. That all sounds rather mystic but I don't know how else to put it. Such moments came in the hilarity of the dining room as well as in the peace of the chapel, in songs round the fireplace and in the silent vigil while the badgers ate. If I had to pick just one such memory it would be the long line of people stumbling down the slope of the amphitheatre to receive the Bread and Wine at the close of last year's Cotswold Festival.

My last weekend at Dor Knap — a West Midlands and South Wales Regional Weekend — was as good and rewarding as any in the past. The age range was from 20- to 70+ and all of us gained enormously from that mixture. Many of the younger people, although they identified themselves with Toc H in that Region, had addresses way outside the Region — an indication of how little such administrative conveniences as Regional boundaries really matter.

After our very moving devotions on the Sunday morning I wandered down the drive to the triangle and stood quietly, with one companion, drinking in the beauty. It was a gentle autumn morning, with the leaves beginning to turn and the last wisps of mist blowing away on the breeze. The Cotswolds had never looked lovelier. It was a time of sadness and nostalgia but we slowly

became conscious that in all that beauty nothing was still. Even the grass was bending in the wind. And that continuous movement seemed to say to us that change is an essential ingredient in life. 'I could never', said my companion, 'adequately express what Dor Knap has meant in my life but I just know it's right to be moving on'. The message of the changing patterns of sunshine and shadow was not one of nostalgia and regret but rather of the need to be open to the new promptings of the Spirit which a new place will bring us.

When I got home I felt impelled to try, however inadequately, to capture something of that moment by the triangle and the result was the following lines:

Thin wisps of mist glide along the valley,  
The sun spotlights for a moment  
A distant church,  
Even the grasses bend in the wind,  
Nothing is still, nothing unchanging,  
All is movement.

The artist seeks to imprison the fleeting moment

On canvas or in words,  
But beauty is never static,  
The fluid grace of rippling grass  
Or dancer's limbs, the changing patterns  
Of sunshine and shadow, of clouds and  
whispering leaves,  
All is movement.

The only permanence is death.  
Life is change, a beckoning round the  
next corner,  
Beyond the distant slope,  
Or sitting on this hillside bathed  
In ever-changing beauty,  
Where all is movement.



Photo: Harborough Mail

This year (thanks largely to Toc H) 20 Market Harborough children had the holiday of a lifetime — painting, playing games and going on trips to places of interest. Here, two of the 17 volunteers involved supervise a painting session.



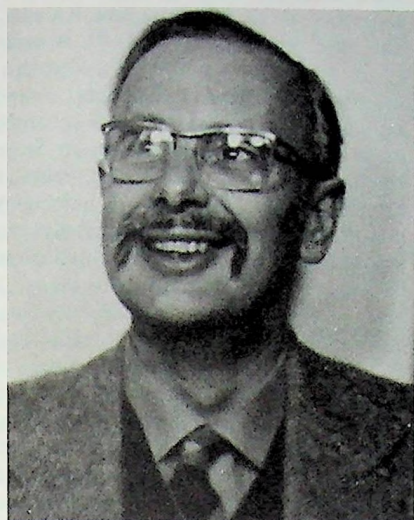
Photo: Solihull News

A canal boat trip for the last 13 pupils of Packwood Special School which closes soon. The outing was organised by Toc H

friends from Solihull Men's Branch who have 'adopted' the school.



# TOC H ACADEMICS -a personal view



by John Wrigley M Sc MIBiol LRIC

I have recently been talking to John Wrigley, a West Yorkshire member with highly individual views about his form of Toc H service. 'Where' he asks, 'are the Toc H academic scholars? What are you all doing in your spare time? It may be that many of our members with sit down jobs find our practical goodwill work a relief from that nine to five mental effort for five days each week. But there must be some of our members who make their contribution through the academic field in their off duty hours and who see that contribution to society as worthwhile.'

John left school in 1938 (the year in which he joined Toc H) without any examination results in his favour and got all his qualifications through evening classes, with the odd day release thrown in. He is one of the ten lucky members of the Chemical Society who have this year gained £200 from their research funds. It is actually the seventh award that he has gained during recent years for personal research.

His first award of £50 from The Chemical Society came 11 years ago and enabled him to finish the experimental work for an M Sc degree, the research being carried out in The University of Bradford at the time the University received its Royal Charter. Since then, the other six awards have been used in research in a laboratory that he has built for himself. One fundamental rule of awards from this fund is to state precisely what the money is to be spent on. This time he bought an inverted microscope for identifying organisms while investigating the role of phosphorus in the waters of West Yorkshire. The first award was used on a study of the organic chemistry of phosphorus.

## We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

### In May

Herbert S Last (Mundesley)  
Horace Skinner (Mundesley)

### In July

Bert E Gotts (Mundesley)  
Erica Howard (Southampton District)

### In August

John E DeVear (Denton)

### In September

Donald J Green (Calstock)  
Hilda W Hare (Malton)  
Alice Hicks (Malton)  
Fred N Hinderwell (Goring-by-Sea)  
Rt Rev Kenneth E N Lamplugh (Southampton District)  
Horace A Truscott (Saltash)  
Vera E Willet (Nottingham)  
Rev John Yearsley (Aston Manor)

### In October

Richard O Bird (Middlesbrough)  
Rev Geoffrey Milroy (North Bucks District)

The Paris Branch Secretary writes: 'We are very sorry indeed to announce the death on 17 September of Mrs Dorothy de Frank. She was our treasurer for many years but, owing to ill health, resigned last year and was appointed Honorary Vice-Chairman. She now rests in peace in God's safe keeping and we shall all miss her most sincerely!'

One of our older Point Three subscribers, 'builder' Tom Okey, died early in September at the age of 84. In the 1914-18 War, Tom had the privilege of serving on the Western Front in Gilbert Talbot's platoon until he was severely wounded and invalided from the Army.

John Clifford Booth MA(Oxon), affectionately known as 'JC', died last December. In the First World War he served in the Sherwood Foresters. After graduating at Oxford, he became the youngest Head in Kent. From 1937 to his retirement in 1960, he was Head of the Boys' Grammar School in Dover. 'JC' joined Toc H in 1928 and served as a Central Councillor and in most Dover Branch offices. He was a life long Methodist, a lay preacher and a prison visitor. Dover members pay tribute to this fine man who exercised a great and good influence on so many people during his very active life.

Hilda Winifred Hare, a founder member of Margate Women's Branch, died on 8 September. Hilda — latterly a Ramsgate member but a much loved Margate Pilot for many years — was a fine organist, and choirmaster and a gifted music teacher. . . Her husband, Revd George Hare is also a keen Toc H member of long standing.

VMF

We give thanks for their lives.

John now teaches chemistry and biology in a Wakefield school, marking books on most evenings. He is lucky to be working for a broadminded education authority, for they cover his expenses for registration at the above university and for travelling expenses in connection with his research. This cash obviously provides a psychological boost. There are many problems which research workers have been trying to solve over the last decade and it usually ends up with the all too familiar tale — for every problem solved, five more nut cracking brain teasers turn up to challenge the researcher.

Being registered as a part time research worker at Bradford University, he may one day be able to submit a thesis for a Ph D. That, however nice it looks, is not the primary object of his research. 'There are', says John, 'three main reasons why I continue:

1. It is a spare time job, with no financial gain. Indeed it is better

described as a 'hole-in-the-pocket'. Surely, therefore, one is justified in saying it is just as worthwhile as taking Derby and Joan out for the day or running a summer work camp?

2. One can never tell what benefit is likely to be gained by mankind until years after the research has been reported in print.

3. There is the modern trend to prepare in advance for retirement. To have an on-going concern such as a useful hobby does just that.

'So we are back where we started. Is this sort of project a part of our payment for our room on earth? Who else in Toc H feels this urge to study in their own discipline and make some contribution to our knowledge of this complicated planet? If there are others who do likewise on a voluntary basis, then I would like to hear from them. So why not write in to 'Point Three' and let us all know all about it?'

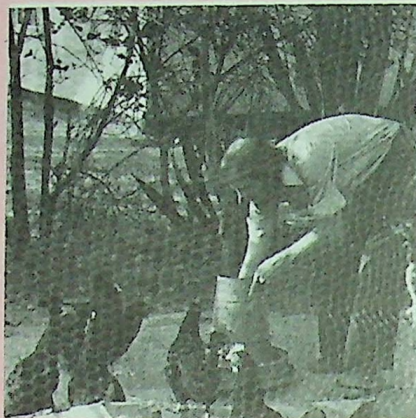


# ZAMBIA IN THE SUN

by Steve and Isabel Bowles

Zambia in the sun. That is what the tourist posters say and to a large extent it is true. Life here is not a holiday by any means but during the past two years we have come to appreciate the quiet simplicity just as much as the fully stocked supermarket shelves which we left behind. Indeed it is the very simplicity of life which we have come to treasure and the 'culture shock' may very well be greater on our return to England than on our arrival in Zambia. Zambia has its problems certainly — commodity shortages and Rhodesia are among them — but for the majority of the people life is peaceful. Newspaper reports of events over the past year or so have been exaggerated.

We came to Zambia because we felt that a spell of working in Africa was something which we wanted to do, to make a helping contribution of our own efforts for a few years and also to gain experiences far beyond those obtainable at home. Since Steve had previously spent a year in Nigeria another part of the continent seemed appropriate. On reflection we were probably over idealistic in what we hoped to achieve. No one person can significantly improve the health or education of any entire country. Job satisfaction comes more at the personal level, as it does in any part of the world. Lives saved and students who have passed their examinations provide the stimulus to keep fighting. It is an uphill battle and although we will never reach the summit there is, nevertheless, a good view of life on the way.



*At work in the garden.*

The people of Zambia are very relaxed in their attitude to life and although this can be frustrating when you want to get something done quickly it is also comforting to feel less pressure than in the UK. There is no 'keeping up with the Jones' out in the bush. It is not exactly 'the good life' but there are many opportunities for self sufficiency in the keeping of poultry, or pigs and goats if you want, and all of it given incentive by the lack of availability otherwise.

Kaoma district hospital, where Isabel works, was built originally as a day clinic. Therefore overcrowding and lack of facilities are serious problems, as is the frequent lack of any water supply. The hospital covers an area of about 2,500 square miles. Therefore sick people who cannot be treated at the various rural clinics in the area have to travel large distances. With petrol at £1.40 a gallon transport is expensive and so many patients come a long way on foot. Hookworm, bilharzia, malaria, TB and many other diseases are endemic and they have a debilitating effect on many. Malnutrition of infants and children causes serious problems and the mortality rate is very high. Isabel's work involves many procedures which would be performed by doctors in the western world. Thus it is very demanding especially as the turnover of patients is necessarily very high. There are several different local languages which does make communication difficult. However the truth usually emerges even if several translations are required on the way. The hospital also runs ante-natal and under-fives clinics; in the latter the teaching of nutrition is an important factor.

Kaoma secondary school, where Steve works, is one of the schools established about 12 years ago as part of the post-independence programme which extended the provision of secondary education and made it available in all parts of the country. Our student body comprises about 600 boys and 400 girls. The staff, numbering about 40, is made up, at the moment, of British, Germans, Indians, Russians, Zambians and Zimbabweans. Constant staff changes make time-tabling a headache, as Steve knows, but it is useful and valuable experience to live in a changing international community. Generally our students are older than they would be in England, many of our fifth years being 21 years of age and more. In most cases they are very keen to study as they realise that they are lucky to have a place at secondary school and they know it is the only chance they will have. When they complete their fifth year they go straight to national service with no chance to repeat examinations. Discipline in the classroom is no problem, all students being very polite. However being a boarding school does create certain difficulties; How many students, aged 18 to 21 years, in Britain or any other 'western' country would tolerate, today, the rigid life and segregation of a boarding school?

English is the official language of Zambia and therefore all teaching is done via this medium. All entrants to secondary school must have passed their final junior school examination, grade seven. After three years at secondary school the students sit for their junior secondary school leaving certificate. Those who pass this may enter forms four and five where they study for the Cambridge university school certificate. This latter certificate is in the process of being changed to an all Zambian system. Steve is head of the science department and himself teaches biology to the senior classes and health science to the juniors. Biology is a popular subject. The students are particularly interested in understanding the diseases which afflict them. As part of their final examination all form three students must complete a project in science. These projects are done in groups, with a teacher, and are generally



*Mother and baby. This premature baby is being kept in an incubator (background) built by a teacher at the school.*



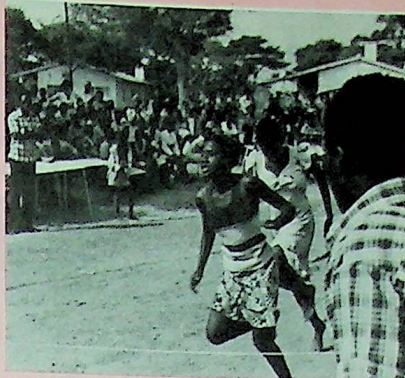
*Science practicals.*



carried out with enthusiasm. Isabel has been helping with this by taking a group for a study of nutrition. With all classes there is a good response to extra lessons after school within the syllabus, especially practical classes. These activities take up more spare time than true extra-curricular work. An interesting aspect of school life in Zambia is that it is compulsory for all schools to have a farm, called production unit, to supplement their diet and to raise money for other school projects. Land, of course, is freely available albeit of a poorer agricultural quality in Kaoma. The week leading up to Independence Day on October 24 is humanism week. All over Zambia students, and others, take part in a number of projects locally, especially cleaning and other tasks at hospitals. It should not be thought from this that Zambians are in any way anti-Christian, in fact all denominations flourish. Zambian humanism simply encourages co-operation between all people in everyday life.

Zambia relies heavily for her balance of payments on the export of copper. It is unfortunate that the sharp decline in the international price of copper, which followed the 1974 oil price increases, has made it increasingly difficult for Zambia to maintain and continue with the recent improvements in provision for health and education. The colonial days may have brought commercial and economic development for private gain but in provision for the majority of the people they were sadly lacking. Our present international economic order makes it difficult for Zambia to pay the price of making up for our own omission. Copper prices have increased again recently, but so has inflation. The effect of the latter on those with an income of £20 a month is devastating. The government realises the importance of diversification and the development of agriculture. All international support for these programmes is greatly needed.

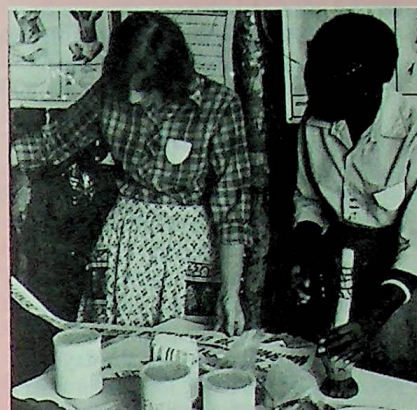
Situated 250 miles west of the capital, Lusaka, Kaoma (formerly called Mankoya so it may be marked as such on your map) is surrounded by very flat land and the soil would not look out of place on the average beach. For seven or eight



*Sports Day 1979.*

months of the year the weather, too, is more applicable to the seaside than to a place five hours drive away from the nearest swimming pool. From November to March it rains, but not continuously. In fact the 1978-79 rains were poor and crop yields of maize, the staple diet, were lower than hoped for. This produced problems for the many subsistence farmers and for the country which may be forced to import maize. In May and June the night temperatures can approach freezing point, hence our request in the March 1979 *Point Three* for clothing to be sent to us for distribution to those who have none. The town of Kaoma offers few amenities by western standards so entertainment is of our own making. Television is available in Lusaka but we make do with Auntie BBC on radio when the reception is clear. However, despite the simplicity of life there is always something to do.

We are more conscious out here of a need to belong – to a society in general but also to family and friends. Feeling that we are part of Toc H is important to us, even though we are isolated from other members. The arrival of letters can be the highlight of the week; they are much more important when they are the only means of contact. *Point Three* is read avidly from cover to cover. Formerly there was a Toc H Branch in Lusaka. If any readers can put us in touch with former members there we would be very grateful.



*Taken at the Kaoma District Agricultural Show, where the school displays its work.*

Our stay here has also given us the chance to visit some neighbouring countries. We have seen Malawi and Tanzania and we plan to visit Kenya before returning to England. Thus we do have time to relax and enjoy the very beautiful surroundings. However the immensity of Africa is certainly brought home to us by a four day car journey before starting a holiday. In a way this helps us to appreciate the vastness and also the diversity – politically and culturally as well as geographically. It is too easy for the European mind to condense Africa into a single and homogeneous unit and we hope that our three years here will help to cancel out that tendency.

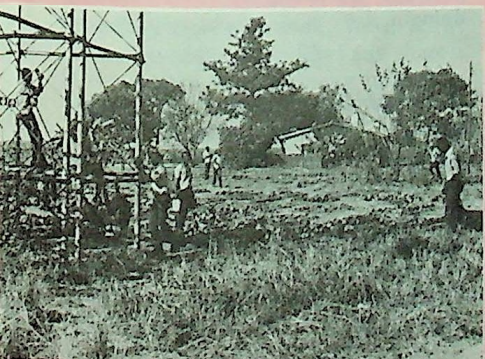
In conclusion we can only say that we hope these, our personal views, have been of interest. With them go our very sincere greetings to you all.



As a child Isabel lived in several parts of the country and thus attended a number of different schools. Her parents are at present living in Teignmouth. She trained as a registered sick children's nurse (RSCN) at the Bristol Children's Hospital and for SRN at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. (1971-76). She is now aged 26.

Steve is 27. He was born near Rochester, Kent where his family still live. He was a pupil at Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, Rochester before going to Bristol University to read Physiology and then to train as a Biology teacher. It was at Bristol where he had his first contact with Toc H through the University group.

After marrying in 1976 Steve and Isabel lived in Cheltenham until they came to Zambia in September 1977. As members of Gloucester District Branch they were involved with local project work and also summer projects in Wales.



*Cabbages for the 'Production Unit'.*



# 1979 Youth Conference

by Scott Shaw

'... I personally don't see any difference between youth and the older people. There's no earthly reason why there shouldn't be a very close relationship...'

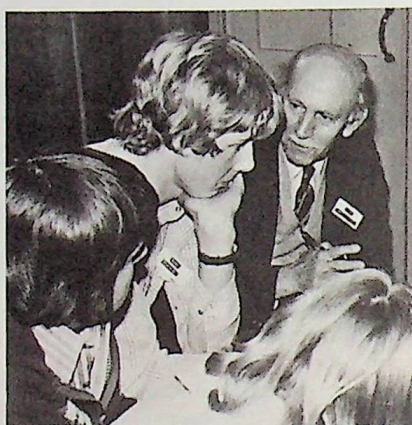
A close relationship. That sums up the second Toc H youth conference at Tunbridge Wells in September. Although it was a youth conference, it wasn't confined to youth.

The 70 strong audience was a mixture of the young and not so young; we heard of the work being done by mature branch members as well as by volunteers; and both sides got together to discuss seriously ways in which youth and maturity can both serve Toc H.

Both sides probably ended the day with new respect and liking for one another — and a desire to see young people playing a bigger part in Toc H.

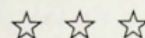
Said Norman Harrild, Sevenoaks District Chairman: 'Youth' — for God's sake don't accept what the Establishment says. Argue about the Establishment, argue against them. Get into Central Council and for God's sake make this a virile Movement again.'

It's already happening. Warrington District's Central Councillor Joanne Harte is 17 years old!

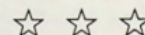


## SOME OF THE THINGS SAID...

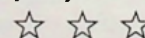
*'Youth groups ought to be progressing towards becoming branches. As branches are dying out at the top end, new young branches should be forming at the bottom end. An alternative would be to combine a youth action group with a branch...'*



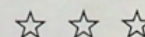
*'Our youth group doesn't want to become a branch because we feel we can do a lot more as youth in Toc H. If we attached ourselves to a branch we could become too static — we'd have to do what the branch wanted. At the moment, we can help different branches.'*



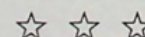
*'Regarding the family of Toc H — I think it's become clear to us there's not much difference from normal families in fact — there's a generation gap. There's some trials and tribulations throughout the growth of the family...'*



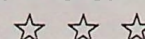
*'For older members, the branch is their social evening. They sit round their tables drinking cups of coffee and generally discussing what they should be doing...'*



*'Most branches do a really good job anyway. What we're trying to find is a link between the age groups...'*



*'Our volunteer group will probably die out eventually but we feel volunteer groups as a whole will carry on and take a very big part in the organisation itself — if we can keep bringing youngsters in...'*





# In Brief...

● 1979 is the 30th anniversary of the **Toc H Manchester Children's Camp**. This year, 180 children enjoyed a splendid holiday, again based on the Rhyl Toc H Centre over a period of five summer weeks. All the camp staff gave up a week of their own holidays to ensure that the children had a good time. The organisers are already planning their fund raising for the 1980 camp. Moreover, they intend to celebrate their 30th anniversary with a mammoth Christmas party and entertainment for 200 children in the Manchester Town Hall. The Lord Mayor of Manchester has been invited to join in the festivities. Hon Secretary Christine Platt has asked us to say 'Thank You' to the myriads who have helped over the years — to all those who have helped fund or run the camps; to Conway men who entertain the children each week; to Rhyl without whom the camps would be impossible; to all those members who have taken the time and trouble to visit the holiday children. So, a warm 'Thank You' to you all and our sincere congratulations to all those dedicated men and women who have made this so memorable an anniversary.

● The Secretary of the Rhyl Centre Management Committee has sent me a fascinating report of this year's holiday for Belfast boys — the eighth consecutive holiday there for children from this troubled city. Half the party of 36 were Protestant and half Catholic. They brought six leaders with them (plus Charlie the cook). They travelled overnight to give them a full week at Rhyl and their programme shows that it was a very full week indeed. During the week, they played three international soccer games against local Welsh boys' teams. The whole week showed once again how much in common Catholic has with Protestant and Irish boy with Welsh boy — a good lesson to learn! Rhyl's Mayor and Mayoress paid informal visits and at one of the international matches divided their support and cheers between the two teams. It was another splendidly successful week. We all send our congratulations to Rhyl and share in the thanks to their many helpers, supporters and donors.

● The Secretary of Conwy (Gwynedd) Men's Branch has written to tell us of their success with a recent Flag week and a Flag Day Street collection. The total collected in the area was £358. One member alone collected well over half the Deganwy total of £150, travelling each day by train from his home in Colwyn Bay.

● A recent note from the Hampshire Council of Community Service passes on the following information about rural postal services:

'People living in remote rural areas can be provided with some services by their postman which would normally be available from a Post Office. On demand, a rural postman *must* — Sell low value postage stamps, provide savings bank forms, cash and supply postal orders, convey prepaid telegrams to the nearest telegraph office, accept inland packets and parcels for posting; letters and parcels for registration; recorded letters for posting.

On request, he *may* also — act as an agent for payment of pensions, convey medicine from doctors or chemists for patients, convey newspapers under special arrangements with the Post Office (but these services are not obligatory).'

● Fakenham (Norfolk) Men's Branch are approaching the end of their season's coach trips for senior citizens. These trips cover a wide field, ranging from a day at the sea or a shopping day to seeing the last of the summer roses at Springfields or the Norwich Christmas Lights. The financing of these outings is helped by the Saturday morning bookstall run by the branch throughout the summer which this year raised over £200. The branch is involved in other projects funded by them and they are now working hard to get local schools interested.

● On 1 October, the recently re-formed Taunton (Somerset) Joint Branch celebrated the 50th anniversary of the formation in the town of a branch of the League of Women Helpers. A service conducted by Branch Padre Revd Prebendary Desmond Morey included an address by Revd Keith Beck and the Ceremony of Light was taken by two founder members. Afterwards, some 60 members and friends gathered for a reception.

● These days, everything seems to be happening in Troon (Cornwall) Branch! I have recently seen their branch 'handout' leaflet which is a model of its kind. The same day a cutting from the 'West Briton' landed on my desk telling the story of a recent guest night at which some 100 members and friends were present. What sounds like a splendid evening was rounded off by the presentation to Jack Keverne of a photograph of himself with four grandchildren — all prize winners at the Troon Toc H Show, of which Jack was show secretary. Jack has been a member since 1951, was branch secretary for 16 years and has also held District office. Please write to us more often, Troon — and what about some pictures?

● More than 100 members and friends moved in from far and wide to celebrate the 50th birthday of Tavistock (Devon) Men's Branch in September: there was even one member from Australia present — Bill Wynn of Adelaide. Rev Winford Phillips gave the address at the thanksgiving service. He spoke of the great importance to us all of the theme that had occupied this year's Bangor Summer School in which he had shared: this theme was summed up in the phrase originally coined by NW Region's Alan Daniels — 'The three Cs — Confidence, Commitment and Communications'. Light was taken by founder member 'Timber' Wood. A supper of hot pasties and other home made 'goodies' was followed by a song recital by two members of the local Operatic Society — George Terrey and Mrs Glenys Williams. This lively branch has now started to plan its centenary celebration, due in September 2029!

● We don't often hear from Colwyn Bay (Clwyd) Men's Branch but their secretary has just told us of a recent effort — the first of its kind the branch has undertaken. They organised and ran in the autumn a charity concert in aid of the local Red Cross Challengers' Club. (The 'Challengers' are all disabled folk, transported by volunteer drivers.) Among those appearing in the concert — staged in St John's Church Hall, Old Colwyn — were the Cadwan Singers. Mark Jones, an Old Colwyn schoolboy, stole the show when, accompanied by three friends playing piano, clarinet and violin, he gave an exhibition of traditional clog dancing. John Williams (Mochdre Branch) both compered the show and had the audience in stitches with his ventriloquist act. The N Wales and N W Regional Chairman, Jimmy Campbell, was rewarded for his long journey when he walked off with the raffle prize — a hand embroidered table cloth presented by Mrs Dylis Jones, of the 'Challengers'. As a result of this most enjoyable evening, Branch Chairman Gareth Roberts was able to present the 'Challengers' with a cheque for £100.

● Hearty congratulations to Mr and Mrs Bryden Monteith of Paris who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 23 September. We all join the Paris Branch in sending to Isabelle and Bryden our warmest good wishes for many more years of happiness together.

● We are delighted to hear of the many branches who have been moved by recent Point Three articles to discuss the problems and the potential of the new microprocessor technology. Secretaries, please, write to let us know of your discussions so that we can share the news with the rest of the family.



# Festival 1980

Plans for next year's National Festival in London over the weekend May 31/June are well advanced. The Festival Evening in Central Hall, Westminster, will, as usual, be an entertainment for the Family, by the Family. Among those who will be taking part will be the Eisteddfod-winning, London based Gwalia Male Voice Choir; Toc H member and outstanding soprano soloist Gillian Cumming; the Latvian Dancers, who were so popular at last year's Cotswold Festival; and folk singers Martin and Christine Wenham, also well known for their contribution to Cotswold Festivals. And a group of young Toc H members from Yorkshire will be singing a specially written Toc H calypso. The serious theme of the evening, presented in music, words and slides, will be the celebration of some of the good things that have happened in Toc H during the five years since the Diamond Jubilee.

The Festival Service will be at Westminster Cathedral, and the preacher will be Norman Motley, Vicar of St Michael's, Cornhill, in the City of London, and a former Chief Anglican Padre of Toc H, Central Hall, Westminster, will be open throughout Saturday as a place to meet old friends and make new ones. There will be a small exhibition featuring some of the residential expressions of Toc H and an opportunity to meet some of those who run these houses.

This time we will be reverting to an older tradition and having a full weekend of activities. On the Sunday morning there will be an open air Communion on the terrace outside All Hallows. And in the afternoon there will be a Family Gathering back at Central Hall, Westminster. This will be an occasion to look forward to the challenges and the opportunities which will face us in the 1980's. Outside speakers and Toc H members will be helping us to see the new contributions which our Movement will have to offer in this new decade. The meeting will be chaired by our Vice-Patron, Angus Ogilvy.

Full details of the programme and the practical arrangements will appear in Point Three next month, together with your application form for tickets. Space is limited and seats will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis so you are advised to work out now exactly what tickets you require, so that you can complete the application form as soon as you receive it.

KPB

# Open Forum

## THANK YOU!

I am writing to *Point Three* because I think everyone should know what a great organisation Toc H is and how important its work is.

I want to tell everyone a little bit about myself and how I became a member. I am 21 years old and have a long criminal record which includes theft and forgery, burglary, unauthorised taking of motor vehicles, etc. I have spent time in a detention centre and prison and have long been the subject of police enquiries. I am not proud of my record — in fact on reflection I wonder how I ever got into such a mess.

In March this year while still on a suspended prison sentence for theft and forgery, I broke into a Warrington social club and stole £33; I was picked up by the police and charged. Because I was already on a suspended sentence it was certain that I would be sent to prison once again, so I resigned myself to receiving a long stretch inside.

While still waiting for the date of my trial to be fixed I came across Toc H. This particular day I was hanging around the YMCA where many young unemployed people gather. That was the day that my life was to change and take on a new meaning. Toc H offered to help me to 'go straight' on the understanding that I met them halfway. Later, I was introduced to Toc H members and soon became very interested in Toc H work in the Warrington area. The great thing was that even with my past record, they never seemed to distrust me and the more trust placed in me, the more work I found myself doing for Toc H. I first became aware of the trust when we organised the Alexandra Rose Day. I was asked if I would take charge of counting the money and perhaps that's why I later found that I had collected about twice as much as anyone else. I was later to become the sole organiser of the Toc H flag day which raised £78 in September.

To date I have been away on Toc H projects and have been able to help Toc H in all kinds of ways. The beauty of it all is that I really enjoy the work and helping people, so much so that I applied to become a Toc H member. Many other organisations would have thought twice about accepting me but I was readily accepted as a member and made very welcome. On joining I was given a Toc H badge which I now wear with pride.

On 27 September I received a letter from my solicitor saying that the date of my trial had been fixed for the 28th — only 24 hours notice. 'This is it'

I told myself, 'You're going down for a good long stretch'. I called in to the Toc H Centre to give my thanks and to say goodbye. I admit I didn't look too smart, long hair and all: being out of work for a long time makes you like that. Jim picked up the 'phone and spoke to a friend who works in a very exclusive hairdresser's. 'I am sending someone over to you', he said, 'I want you to make him look like a business man'.

The next morning (the day of the trial) I met Jim. I wasn't wearing a tie but he had thoughtfully brought one of his own for me to wear. It's very hard to describe the feeling when you're in the dock with three prison officers stood behind you waiting to take you away to prison. The court heard all the evidence and then to my surprise Jim was called to give evidence. He spoke very highly about my work for Toc H and about the ways in which I had helped him. He also produced references which he had collected on my behalf from people I had helped. In summing up the judge said that he had listened carefully to what had been said, reminded me that I was already on a suspended sentence but due to the most unusual circumstances he was prepared on this occasion to give me one more chance. I was given 120 hours community service and a fine.

I am now working on my community service order and the nice thing about it is that for part of my time I have been assigned to Toc H.

Mine is not a single case. Dozens of young people have been helped by Toc H in Warrington and like me, they will be forever grateful to have come into contact with such a wonderful and caring organisation...

Name and address supplied.

It would require the poetry of a Betjeman or dare I say — of a Prideaux-Brune to set the scene of 'The Song and Dance of Worship' performed in the magnificent Romsey Abbey on a sunny September afternoon. Magnificent and yet intimate enough for a few hundred Toc H members and friends to enjoy to the full a subtle interweave of recitations (from St John to Dylan Thomas), choral and orchestral music (from Vivaldi to J Hull) and superb dancing by the Chelmsford Dancers.

A truly Toc H occasion presented with professional skill.

The Normans built their Abbey with massive abandon and total disregard of acoustic effect but the performers managed extremely well, and here is one



Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

member expressing his inadequate thanks to the large number of people who played their various parts in making this an unique occasion.

Edwin W Atkins  
Lymington, Hants

## A QUIET WEEKEND

After returning from yet another Bordon Company Quiet Weekend at Alison House, I did feel some mention should be made of it in *Point Three* to encourage all Toc H members to come another time. We, as servants of Christ are called to action to help others. But I feel strongly

that Toc H will be no different from many voluntary organisations (good as those may be) unless our service is entered on prayerfully. So often we are too busy. As was quoted at the weekend... G K Chesterton who said sometimes 'when we are too busy we are far busier than God meant us to be'. Sometimes we don't sit still long enough to talk with Him how best our energies may be used. The spiritual side of our Movement is a vital one and I feel is in danger of being put aside in local situations.

Over the years, every Toc H Quiet Weekend has been a blessing to me as a committed Church worker and I know has equally blessed others.

For those who, (like me the first time!) are apprehensive at having to be quiet, let me say it isn't too terrible. We do talk as well! And we walk! Some last weekend may still be recovering from a Cromford hill walk but were rewarded with magnificent views and pleasant company.

The speakers lead into meditation which always produces some real deep thinking.

Do come and find blessing next time — all Toc H-ers!

Betty Blower  
Leamington Spa

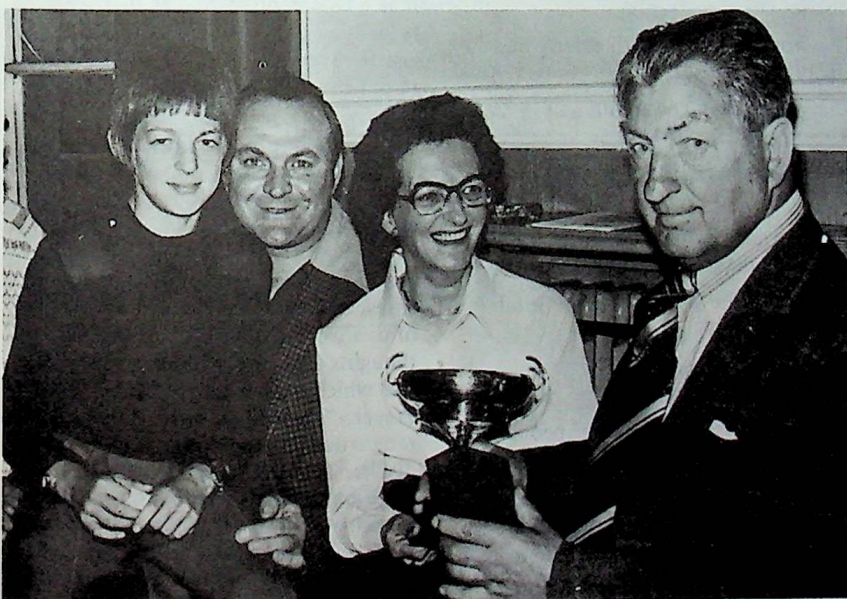


Photo: James R Smith & Son



Two Toc H girls were top winners in a unique International Year of the Child contest at Glenrothes New Town in Scotland. The idea of the contest was the brain child of CEC member Jim Lewis, who is Youth and Community Officer in Glenrothes. The title 'Child of the Year' (and a splendid new bicycle!) went to Yvonne Craig of the Glenrothes Toc H Youth Group for her 'cheerful and tireless help to young and old'. A runner-up (with a gift of £10) was Susan Rose, a member of the same Toc H Youth Group. Susan 'has earned a well deserved reputation for unfailing cheerfulness and extending an ever ready helping hand wherever it is needed'. The presentations were made by Sir George Sharp, chairman of the Development Corporation. We all join in sending our warm congratulations to Susan and Yvonne.

These pictures were taken at this year's Louth Floral Competition and Flower Show (the 28th - 25 of them run by Ben Chatterton) organised by Louth (Lincs) Men's Branch. This has become

one of the major events of the year. The pictures show George Houlden spraying the hanging basket which took first prize and showing his trophy to his family.



# BE STILL then....

Should you require Bible Reading Fellowship Notes and find difficulty in obtaining them at your local church, we can send them from here for £1 per annum. The Publications Department at Wendover still have copies of 'Yours is the Glory', or you can get these from members of the Regional staff. The Chaplain will let you have a fuller list of daily intercessions, with names, if you just ask him.

DAY	THEME	SPECIAL THOUGHTS
1	Thanksgiving	Our own families
2	Unity of purpose	Toc H in North Wales and North West
3	Silence	Toc H in Australia and New Zealand
4	Science and religion	Toc H in West Midlands and South Wales
5	Politics — national and international	Toc H in South Africa and Zimbabwe — Rhodesia
6	The production of food	Toc H in South West Region
7	Faith in life	Cuddesdon; Alison House; Port Penrhyn; Colsterdale; Langdale; Clayton House
8	Stewardship	Finance Department
9	Industrial relations	Toc H in North Eastern Region
10	Human rights and responsibilities.	Toc H work in Prisons and Borstals
11	Ministry of healing	Hospital service of Toc H; work with the handicapped
12	A forgiving spirit	Toc H in South America
13	Love in human relationships	Principal Officers of Toc H
14	Living as a family	Marks and Centres
15	A daily rule of life	Headquarters and administrative staff
16	Communications	Communications Department
17	The different generations	Toc H in Mid-Eastern Region
18	Our neighbourhood	The Trustees; The Chairman; Central Executive; Central Councillors; District Officers
19	Lonely and despairing people	The work of Toc H with elderly and lonely people
20	Racial harmony	Toc H work on Tower Hill and in the Bangladesh Centre
21	Our responsibilities towards developing countries	India (Pannikampatti)
22	Education	Winant and Clayton Volunteers and USA; Aston Ordination Training Scheme
23	A new dimension of life	Toc H and the Arts; Toc H in South Eastern Region
24	International co-operation and peace	International Department
25	A childlike disposition	Toc H work with young people
26	Conversion to the way of Christ	Europe — Belgium and the Old House
27	Protection and safety in the community	Toc H in Germany (BAOR)
28	Leisure and recreation	Toc H in Southern Region
29	The whole Church	All Hallows; Wendover; Brisbane; All churches associated with Toc H
30	The day's work	Toc H in Scotland
31	Doing the truth	Ourselves

## BORDON LETTER

by Revd MacGregor Pearson

### Answered Prayer

What sort of response do we obtain from our prayers? Do we continually experience joy, or sorrow? Disappointment or even frustration? When sincere faith apparently achieves nothing, or when there seems a complete lack of response to all our prayers there come inevitably disturbing thoughts, and even doubts. Yet Holy Scripture assures us that God hears and answers prayer before we even begin to call upon Him. But we fail to appreciate the truth of this when we cannot see the answer we expected to our requests.

Prayer is the most wonderful experience in the world. It is nothing less than actual contact with the living God Himself, and an expression of love and faith that creates our trust in Him. Jesus left us a number of simple rules, and examples of prayer. If we keep these there is no reason why our own prayers should not be as successful as those recorded in the New Testament. The Prayer of Jesus provides the basis on which to model our own thoughts and devotions. Even more importantly it enables us to get our priorities right. It is a God centred prayer that seeks to hallow, or reverence Him, above all else for ever. It fulfils our Lord's advice to put the Kingdom of God first.

Prayer, therefore, is primarily to the greater glory of God. This means that our frail prayers, however poor, are sanctified by the Holy Spirit to the glory of the Father. What a wonderful answer this is to our sincere praise and thanks! A response to our prayers of which most of us are often unaware. Arranging our thoughts in the right order is something else which we are taught by the Lord's Prayer. 'Thy will be done' is not a pious resignation to something we fear or dislike. It is a deliberate commitment to place ourselves at God's disposal, in His ministry of love. He looks to us to fulfil our neighbour's needs — his daily bread, in answer to his prayers, or indeed for our loved ones in the situation about which we have approached Him in prayer. We are here, on God's behalf to carry out His good intentions. No wonder we need the help and inspiration of His Holy Spirit.



He it is who comes to the aid of our 'inarticulate groans' (as St Paul put it) and prays to God in God's own way for us. What then of our own needs, or requests which remain unfulfilled? Of course, it is true that 'no' is an answer, but it is seldom given. Very often our requests are too specific. There is no room for faith to leave the results for God to answer as He knows best. For instance when faced with a choice of action we tend to ask God whether to turn left or go right. That makes it impossible for God to answer, when in His Wisdom He knows that the correct move might be neither, but to go forward, or something else which we had never even contemplated. The wisest course, guided by the Holy Spirit, is to confine our requests to a faithful committal of our needs to the Father, and leave them in His hands — thankfully. Look at the simple prayers of trust recorded in the New Testament. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, 'They have no wine', and Martha, Jesus' friend, 'Lord, he whom You love is sick' — no more, no less. No pleading — just trust and behold, what results! God's response to our prayers begins with God, and not with us. Christ Jesus stands outside and knocks on

the door of our hearts. He asks to be let into the trouble or the circumstances in which we will seek. Then the Holy Spirit comes to help us, and all we have to do is to follow the example of Jesus' Mother. Simply explain the need of the trouble. Then leave it in God's hands with thanksgiving. There is no more to do except to wait in trust, sometimes the hardest part. But we should always give thanks at the time of prayer as an act of faith. Thank God we do have Someone to whom we can turn, and who will listen, and will do His best for them and us.

Finally the good purposes of the Father are completely fulfilled in whatever way He deems to be best. This is seldom what we expect, and so the results are often overlooked, if we are spiritually blind. God does not think as we do. For instance, death may perhaps be the only means of making a sick person whole — on the 'other side', whose poor body may perhaps be incurable, except through long pain. But in God's incomprehensible silence His suffering hands are working together for our good. What we cannot see, we accept in faith. God's response is always immediate and full of love.

## For your diary



'Are we Ready for the next Ten Years?'

Book now if you want a place on this workshop at Cuddesdon House from 8-10 February 1980.

You will have the chance to raise the questions that are bothering you; to discuss the social, economic and political issues springing from today's technological revolution; to work towards agreement on our social objectives.

The cost of the weekend (Friday evening to midday Sunday) will be £14.70.

To book a place, write now (enclosing a £4 non-returnable deposit) to: Tom Gulliver, 106 Nore Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 8EN. (Tel: 0272 (Bristol) 842092.)



Photo: Evening Post, Reading

Enjoying the White Horse Vale garden party at Caversham Court. A great afternoon of songs, dancing, puppets and competitions (including the raffling of one of Jimmy Savile's autographed track suits!) was aimed at raising funds for a holiday for 25 mentally handicapped people and for other projects. The target set was £1,550.

Surrey branches collaborated with volunteers to provide a holiday on a one-to-one basis for local spastic children. We hear that one child, when he got home, couldn't get to bed fast enough so that 'tomorrow will come faster and I can see my "volunteer" again.' Contact with the volunteers is being maintained and it is hoped to start a local Toc H Action Group.





# Something New!

Here's an attractive decoration for your branch room wall, or an appropriate way of saying 'thank you' to a friend of Toc H.

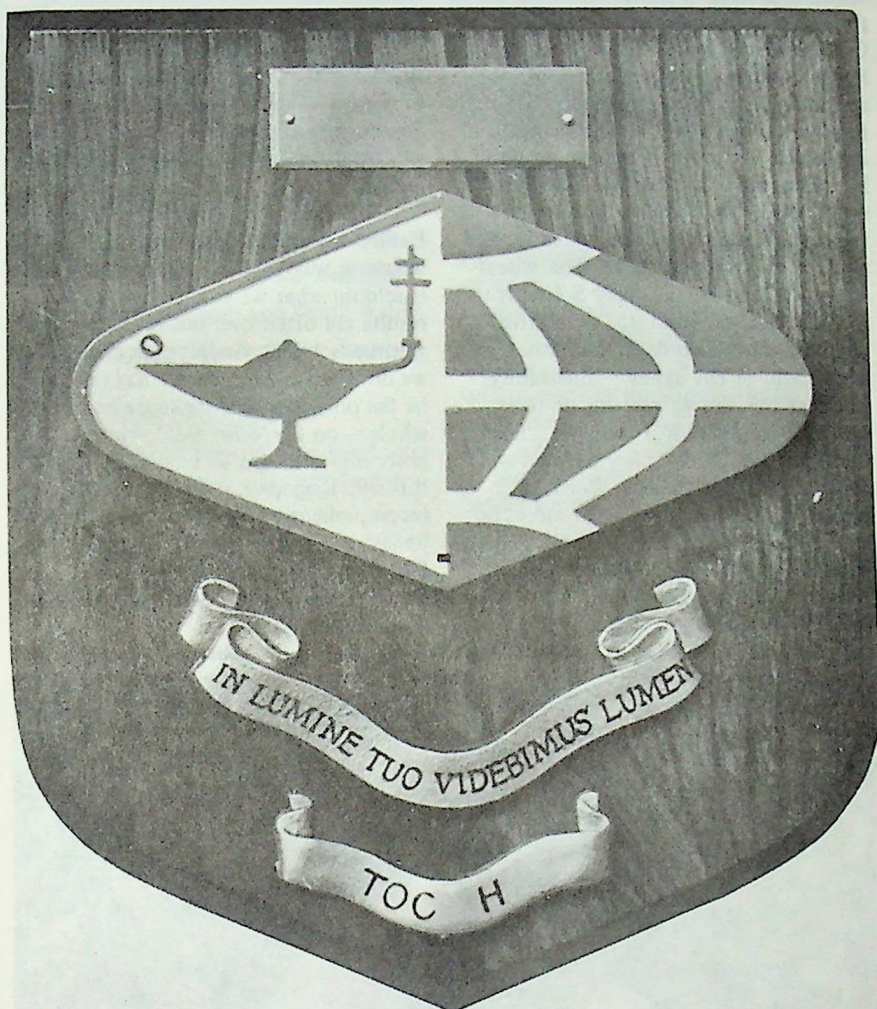
The Toc H emblem, name and motto, hand painted on raised mouldings and mounted on a varnished wood shield, can now be ordered, with or without a brass plate for engraving.

Please complete the order form below, allowing up to ten weeks for delivery.

With brass plate	£7.00
Without brass plate	£6.75

Prices include VAT, postage and packing.

Size overall, 6" wide x 6 7/8" deep



..... with plate @ £7.00 each =

..... without plate @ £6.75 each =

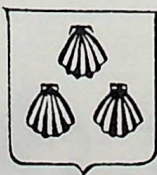
From .....

.....

.....

## Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.



Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges. 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50 (Code) 3398 31/32.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Suberb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements, also Bran Tub Toys. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs, (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel.

North Buckinghamshire. For properties in the area between £10,000 and £30,000, please contact Bonner & Son, Chartered Surveyors, 12 Market Square, Buckingham. (Tel. 029 02 2301).

Christian friendship/marriage introductions. All ages. Nationwide. Also single holidays. Weekend house parties. C 1 Fellowship, Dept/B23, Ldenthorpe, Doncaster. (SAF)

Travelling to the Channel Islands? Why not leave your car with us? Open or covered accommodation. Free transport to and from Weymouth Quay. For further details please write enclosing sae to: Redlands Channel Island Car Park (Proprietor F W Westmacott) 369 Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset. Tel: Upwey (030 581) 2841.